President A. R. Hill of Missouri expresses himself as follows:

I can see no justification for a new managing board declaring all positions vacant and reappointing whomsoever they see fit. The appointment by any managing board I regard as a mere formality. The real appointment should always be made by the faculty of the department concerned, including, of course, the president and dean who are members of that faculty, meaning by department, as a rule, what used to be meant by chair. Where the faculty of a school or college is small, as in the case of most law schools, the entire faculty of the school should be consulted. I do not mean that a formal vote of the faculty of the school or department need be taken either in making the appointment or in severing the relationship; but the actual sentiment of the faculty should be voiced in either action and when this is the case the action of the Board who are not educational experts, should be merely formal.

Mr. V. H. Henderson, secretary of the regents of the University of California, says:

For a new managing board to declare all positions vacant and to reappoint whom they see fit, is apt to prove a mistake. A wholesale violence of this sort has been proved by the history of American university life ordinarily to result in weakening an institution and hindering its healthy and normal development. As a matter of university planning it is very much better if a managing board shall not itself be a "new board"—that is to say, the governing board should be made up of a body of men whose terms expire at different times, so that the board shall always contain a considerable proportion of members who are thoroughly acquainted with the work of the institution and sympathetic with the purposes and ideals of American university work.

Mr. Henderson then makes the same point as does President Hill:

In the University of California, all initiative as to appointments, promotions, salaries and changes of title is with the president of the university. He invariably obtains the approval of the finance committee of the regents to the creation of a new position, or to changes which involve increase of expenditure, but the initiative in these matters remains with him and questions of personality remain with him. That this should be the case is an essential for the best success of any educational institution, whether it be a university or a city school system.

Mr. Henderson strikes at the basis of much of the trouble in regard to tenure. Where governing boards consider it their duty to take the initiative in the appointment or retirement of members of the faculty without the approval of the president, trouble is certain to ensue. With the formation of single boards governing all a state's educational institutions, a system now being tried in several states, this policy becomes all the more necessary, for it will be entirely impossible for members of such boards to have much personal knowledge of the fitness of the candidates.

I have endeavored to present to you the prevailing custom upon these matters in the land-grant colleges. Evidently, there is a considerable divergence of policy among the several institutions, the smaller of which may sometimes need to pursue a somewhat different course from that found satisfactory to those enjoying larger resources. However, it would seem fairly evident that there are certain general principles concerning the matter of definiteness of appointments and tenure which should be observed by all. If these could be clearly formulated by our committee on college organization and policy, and then be adopted by this section, would not such action be of considerable value in encouraging a more uniform practise and be a most welcome support to many of our college executives?

E. D. Sanderson
College of Agriculture,
West Virginia University

THE PORTO RICO SURVEY

The New York Academy of Sciences has begun a scientific study of the island of Porto Rico along the lines of geology, paleontology, zoology, botany, anthropology and oceanography. With the assistance of a friend, the academy has voted to expend $1,500 a year for five years on this work, and cooperation with the academy has been assured by the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Garden and by scientific depart-

ments of Columbia University, New York University and other institutions. Furthermore, on account of the representations made by the academy through its representatives, Professors Henry E. Crampton and N. L. Britton, the insular government of Porto Rico has made an appropriation of $5,000 toward the work for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1914, with the expectation that this appropriation would be repeated on each ensuing four years.

The committee having the work in charge consists of Professors N. L. Britton, James F. Kemp, Franz Boas, C. L. Poor and H. E. Crampton. In furtherance of the project, Professor Crampton visited Porto Rico in December and January and Professor Britton and Dr. Lutz in January and February last, and the work is now well under way. Some of the aspects of the work are as follows:

GEOLOGY

Not much is known in detail about either the geology or the paleontology of Porto Rico, so that the field is very attractive. Much, too, remains to be done on the economic geology of the island. The geological portion of the scientific study of Porto Rico will be begun this summer by Professor Charles P. Berkey, who expects to sail for Porto Rico about the middle of August and to spend a month in reconnaissance work on the island. He will probably be accompanied by some other member of the New York Academy of Sciences. Dr. Berkey plans to cross and recross the island at as many points as are available in the time; to gain a general idea of the run of the formations and collect as many specimens as possible. Next winter and in subsequent seasons the details of particular sections will be elaborated by other workers, and the mineral resources will be specially studied. Attention will also be directed with great care to the fossiliferous strata.

ZOOLOGY

In the department of zoology, the field is wide and varied, and the organisms to be investigated are especially numerous. The work was begun in January, when Professor Crampton completed a reconnaissance of the island in order to map out the different ecological regions for further intensive study. Dr. Frank E. Lutz was a member of Professor Britton's party which investigated the islands of Desecheo and Mona, as well as certain areas of the main island. His collections comprise 10,000 insects, and notable series of land molluscs and other forms.

During the coming summer Mr. Roy W. Miner will begin the detailed investigation of the invertebrates of the shores and estuaries, especially those of the harbors of San Juan, Ponce, Mayaguez and Vieques. The coral reefs off the southern and western shores will also receive attention. Mr. John T. Nichols begins the collection and study of the fishes of the same regions, working with Mr. Miner so as to correlate the studies in these two fields.

For the study of the rich division of entomology, three investigators will take the field. Mr. H. G. Barber and Mr. F. B. Watson leave New York on July 4, and Mr. Charles W. Leng will go to Porto Rico later in the summer. They will study intensively certain characteristic regions mapped out by Professor Crampton and Dr. Lutz. The entomologists of government institutions are cooperating with the survey in this department of activity.

BOTANY

The botany of Porto Rico is fairly well known along several lines, but much field work is still desirable for satisfactory knowledge of the fungi and the lichens, and additions to the known flora in other groups can doubtless be made by further exploration of regions of difficult accessibility. The reforestation of portions of the island is one of the most important economic problems of the colony. Several of the members of the scientific staff of the New York Botanical Garden have given much time to Porto Rico, and the results of their labors will be used in further research there by them. Dr. Britton visited the island in January and is going there again in August.

ANTHROPOLOGY

The anthropology of Porto Rico offers an attractive field of study not only in the ethnology of the present inhabitants, but also and more particularly along the lines of archeology. Much material has been gathered from the surface, but a broad field is offered in the investigation of anciently inhabited caves and in the scientific working over of numerous kitchen middens.

OCEANOGRAPHY

The oceanographic work falls naturally into two general divisions—physical and biological. In both of these divisions there is opportunity for new and very valuable research.

The physical division should include a study of the tides and of the ocean currents in the neighborhood of Porto Rico. The present tidal data consist of several short and disconnected series of observations—the longest series having been made at San Juan in 1899. Observations of ocean currents are few and crude—those of the *Blake* were obtained by comparing dead-reckoning positions of the vessel with observed positions.

Tidal observations could best be carried on by the establishment of self-registering gauges. These could be established at the principal harbors and continuous records for several months or a year obtained.

Current observations to be of value must be obtained by a properly equipped ocean-going vessel, and such a vessel could obtain in a short voyage results of extreme value. At the same time, the vessel could and should be equipped for biological study—the current observations and the deep sea dredging for animal life going on side by side. For these two branches of oceanographic work a vessel is absolutely essential.

The specimens which are collected will eventually find lodgment in the American Museum of Natural History, except for the "first set" of duplicates. These will be deposited with the authorities of Porto Rico for the inauguration of an insular museum, and the academy's investigators will take particular pains to insure the good quality and extent of this series. Edmund Otis Hovey

THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF APPLIED CHEMISTRY

Professor Paul Welden, president of the congress, in a personal letter writes as follows:

1. The meetings will be held in St. Petersburg from the 8th to the 14th of August, 1915.

2. Excursions are to be made to Finland, Moscow, Kiew, Baku in the Caucasus, etc.

3. In addition to the usual addresses, systematic reviews of the work in particular fields (with discussions) are to be given by specialists, on the invitation of the committee of organization, to a greater extent than formerly.

4. Particulars as to receptions, entertainments, etc., can only be given later.

5. The question of reduced railway fares on the Russian railroads is now under consideration by the government.

6. No obstacles will be placed in the way of the journey of Jewish chemists to the Congress provided (*a*) that at the frontier, in addition to the vised passport (requisite for every passenger), cards of membership, signed by the president and honorary secretary of the congress shall be presented.

7. An announcement of the Ninth International Congress in English will be sent in the course of the next few days or weeks to North America and England.

THE RUSSELL SAGE INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Russell Sage Institute of Pathology, held in New York on June 5, the following officers were elected:

President, Dr. D. Bryson Delaven.
Vice-president, Dr. Simon Flexner.
Secretary, Dr. Theodore C. Janeway.
Treasurer, Dr. Graham Lusk.

Appointments to the scientific staff were as follows:

Scientific director, Dr. Graham Lusk.
Medical director, Dr. Eugene F. Du Bois.
Chemist, F. C. Gephart, Ph.D.
Assistant, Dr. A. L. Meyer.